

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:  
ARTHUR S. GARRETT  
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3315

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT  
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

8049.922-304

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/US03/23984	01 August 2003 (01.08.2003)	29 August 2002 (29.08.2002)

Applicant

UNITED STATE POSTAL SERVICE

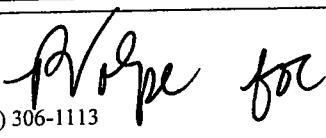
1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Vincent Millin Telephone No. (703) 306-1113 
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To:  
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(PCT Rule 71.1)

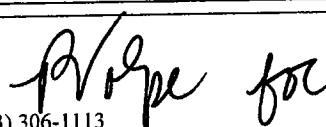
		Date of Mailing (day/month/year)	<b>29 MAR 2005</b>
Applicant's or agent's file reference  8049.922-304		<b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>	
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Facsimile No.	

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

## (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

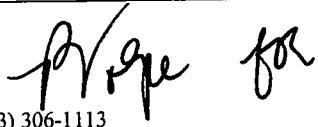
Applicant's or agent's file reference 8049.922-304	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US03/23984	International filing date (day/month/year) 01 August 2003 (01.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 August 2002 (29.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 17/60 and US Cl.: 705/35, 406, 407, 408		
Applicant UNITED STATE POSTAL SERVICE		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I  Basis of the report
  - II  Priority
  - III  Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV  Lack of unity of invention
  - V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI  Certain documents cited
  - VII  Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29 March 2004 (29.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 28 February 2005 (28.02.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450	Authorized officer Vincent Millin  Telephone No. (703) 306-1113
Facsimile No.	

**I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:\* the international application as originally filed. the description:pages 1-19 as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the claims:pages 20-35, as originally filed  
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the drawings:pages 1-5, as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_. the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US03/23984

## V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-92</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-92</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-92</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

## 2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-92 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Pintsov et al. U.S. Patent 6,385,504 in view of Gilham U.S. Patent 5,774,554

Pintsov teaches a method for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding comprising: transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding; receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data; and verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using verification data (column 3, lines 10-67). The verification data is machine-readable and is optically able to be scanned from the address label (Figure 6). Pintsov fails to teach that the delivery verification is associated with a monetary value. Gilham teaches associating a monetary value with the delivery payment coding (column 3, line 46 thru column 4, line 55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Pintsov to include associating monetary value with payment coding as taught by Gilham because it provides an efficient criteria for verifying delivery payment. There is sufficient motivation to combine the teachings of Pintsov and Gilham because both teach a method for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding with verification data to be included in a delivery payment coding.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----